FIRST COMICS
DYNAMO JOE
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WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?

It is a new age, more than a thousand years hence, yet human nature has changed little. The forces and conditions that have bred wars in the centuries gone by now breed a different kind of war, a new breed of warrior. One of these new warriors is the robosoldier **Dynamo Joe**. This is his story.

Only three civilizations exist in our spiral of the galaxy, the greatest being the **Terran Confederation**, centered on Earth. The galaxy is shared with the cat-like **Tavitans**, and a benign master race, the **Imperium**.

The two man crew of **Dynamo Joe** consists of:

1) **Sergeant Elanian Daro**: citizen of the Imperium.

2) **Private Pomru**: a young Tavitan out to see the Universe.

Ten years before the start of this story, the planets at the Galactic rim fell under attack by a bizarre extra-galactic enemy called the **Mellenares** — millions of microscopic organ - isms linked together to form a single group consciousness, and possessing the ability to read minds. The foe moves at sub-light speeds, in an obsessive straight-line, devour - ing planets in its path.

LAST ISSUE: A giant Mellenares machine attacked and devoured an *inhabited* planet. The inexperienced **Prince Shaeton** tried to save the planet with advance units of the Alliance fleet. With Daro still on furlough, Pomru and DJ were teamed up with the ex-slaver **Tanamara**. Somehow they managed to survive. And now both Daro and DJ creator/penciller **Doug Rice** are back...

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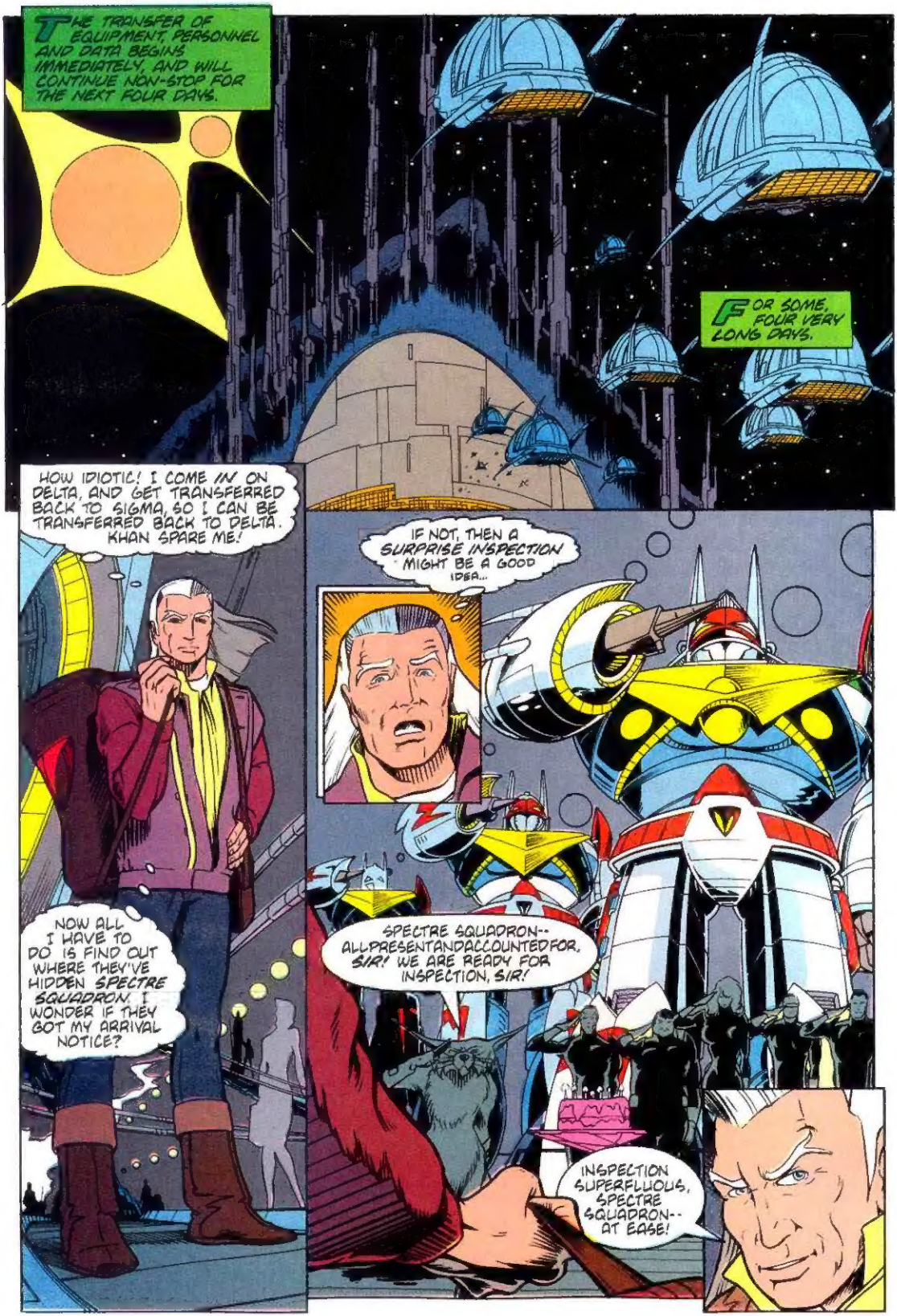
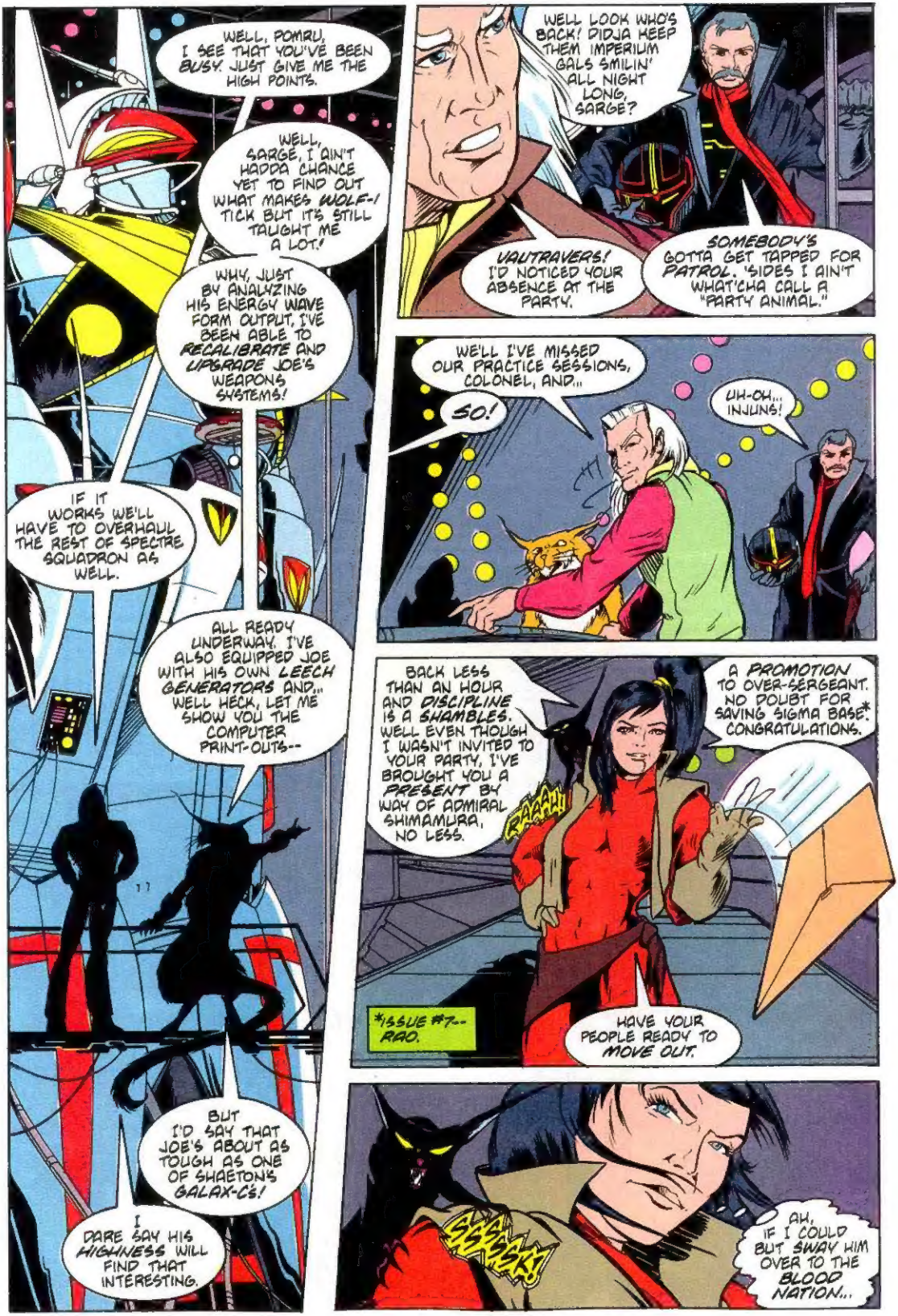
A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

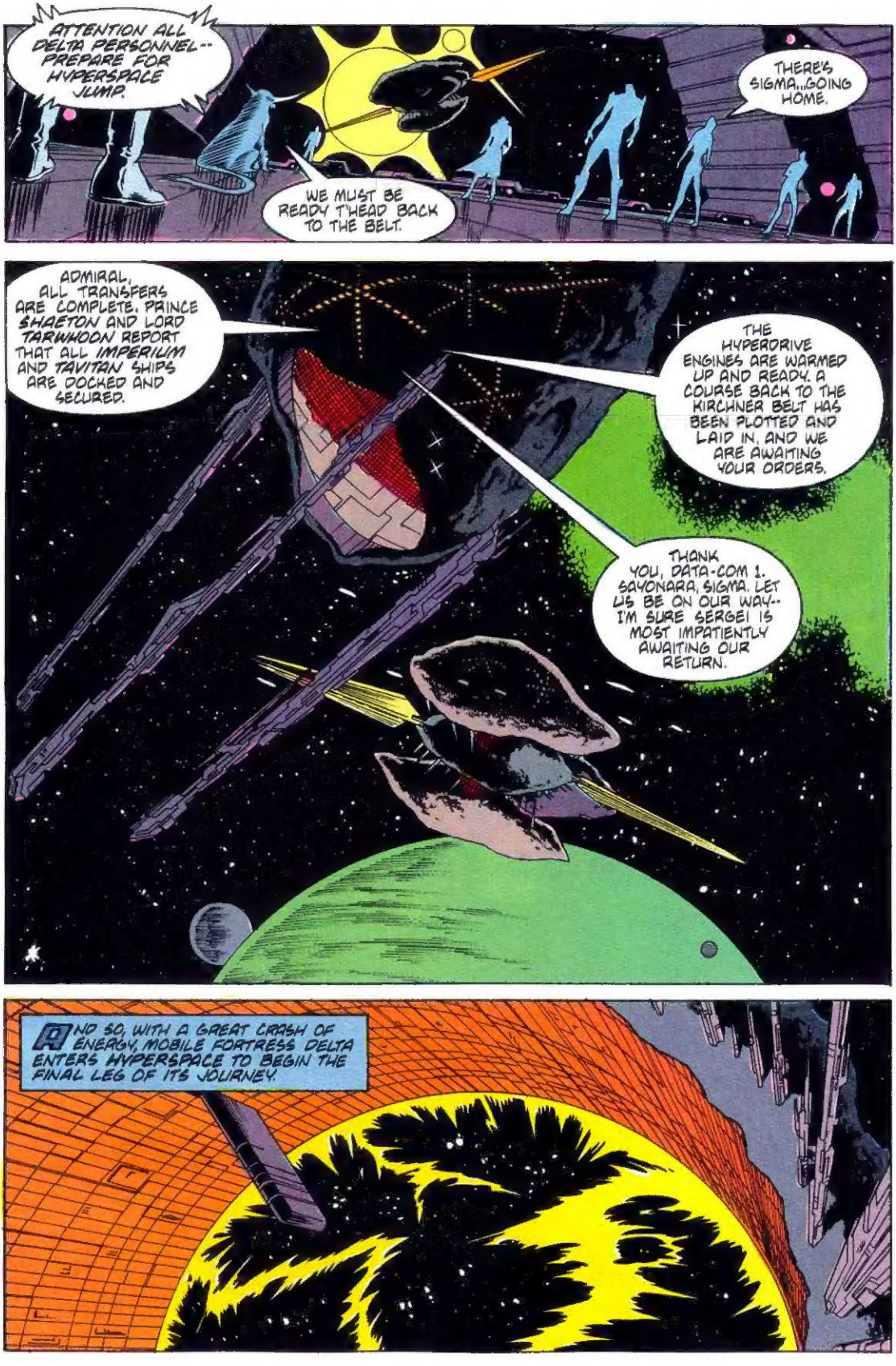
AS A RESULT OF THE RECENTLY ATTEMPTED DREAMER MUTINY, SIGMA BASE, THE ALLIANCE'S MAIN STRONGHOLD IN THE ORION CORRIDOR, HAS BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED. RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO REPAIR IT WHILE STILL ON THE FRONT LINES, IT IS TO BE REPLACED.
DYNAMO JOE™
STRIPPED OF ITS WARP CAPABILITY, SIGMA HAS BEEN PLOWING HOMEWARD AT SUB-LIGHT SPEED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. ON BOARD, ADMIRAL SHIMAMURA, PRINCE SHAETAN AND DATA-COM ONE PREPARE THE BASE FOR THE MASSIVE TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL. GENERAL IPPOLITOV HAS REMAINED BEHIND WITH THE BULK OF THE FLEET TO GUARD THE KIRCHNER BELT.
TODAY IS RENDEZVOUS DAY. AT THE FIRST SIGHT OF DELTA BASE, EVEN HARDENED VETERANS FEEL A TOUCH OF AWE. CARVED FROM A SINGLE NICKEL-IRON ASTEROID OVER 100 KILOMETERS LONG, DELTA HOUSES OVER 6 MILLION MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND PACKS ITS OWN CONSIDERABLE FIREPOWER.
THE CORE
DOUG RICE plot-pencils
PHIL FOGLIO plot-script
BRIAN THOMAS inks
WILLIE SCHUBERT letters
RICK TAYLOR colors
RICK OLIVER problems

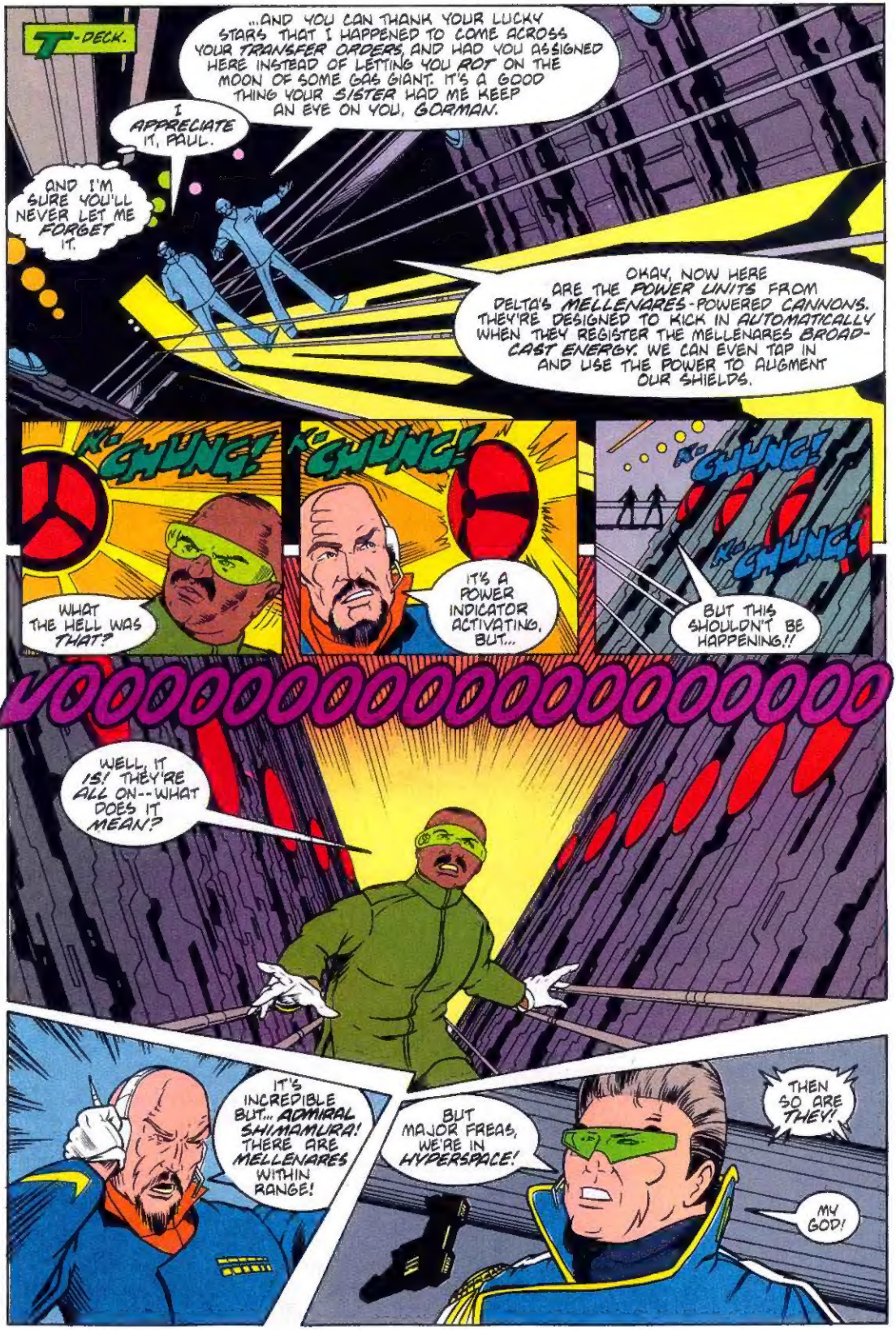
Another Fine HaCoA-Grundy scan

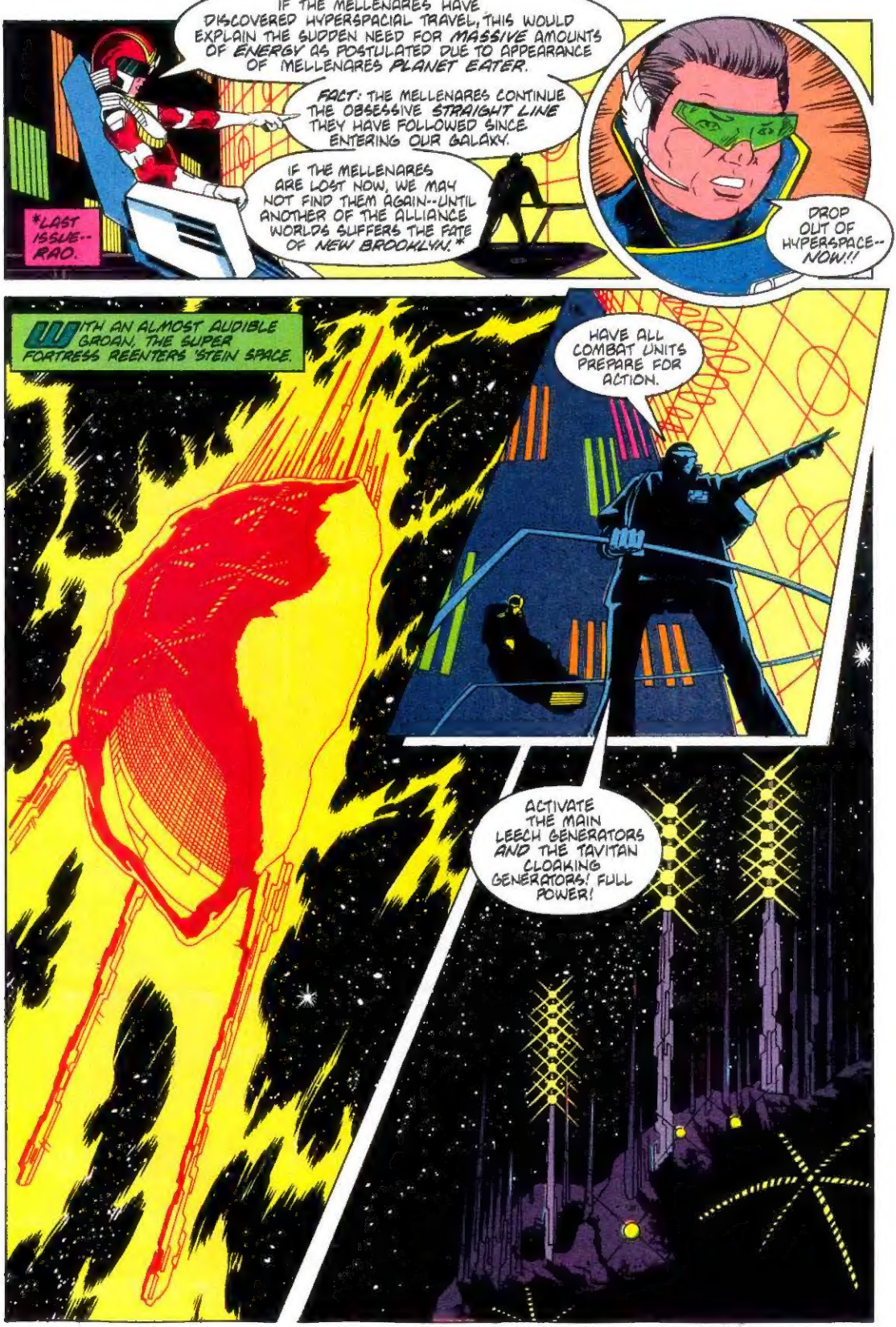

THE TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL AND DATA BEGINS IMMEDIATELY, AND WILL CONTINUE NON-STOP FOR THE NEXT FOUR DAYS.
FOR SOME, FOUR VERY LONG DAYS.
HOW IDIOTIC! I COME IN ON DELTA, AND GET TRANSFERRED BACK TO SIGMA, SO I CAN BE TRANSFERRED BACK TO DELTA. KHAN SPARE ME!
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND OUT WHERE THEY'VE HIDDEN SPECTRE SQUADRON. I WONDER IF THEY GOT MY ARRIVAL NOTICE?
IF NOT, THEN A SURPRISE INSPECTION MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA...
SPECTRE SQUADRON-- ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, SIR! WE ARE READY FOR INSPECTION, SIR!
INSPECTION SUPERFLUOUS, SPECTRE SQUADRON-- AT EASE!

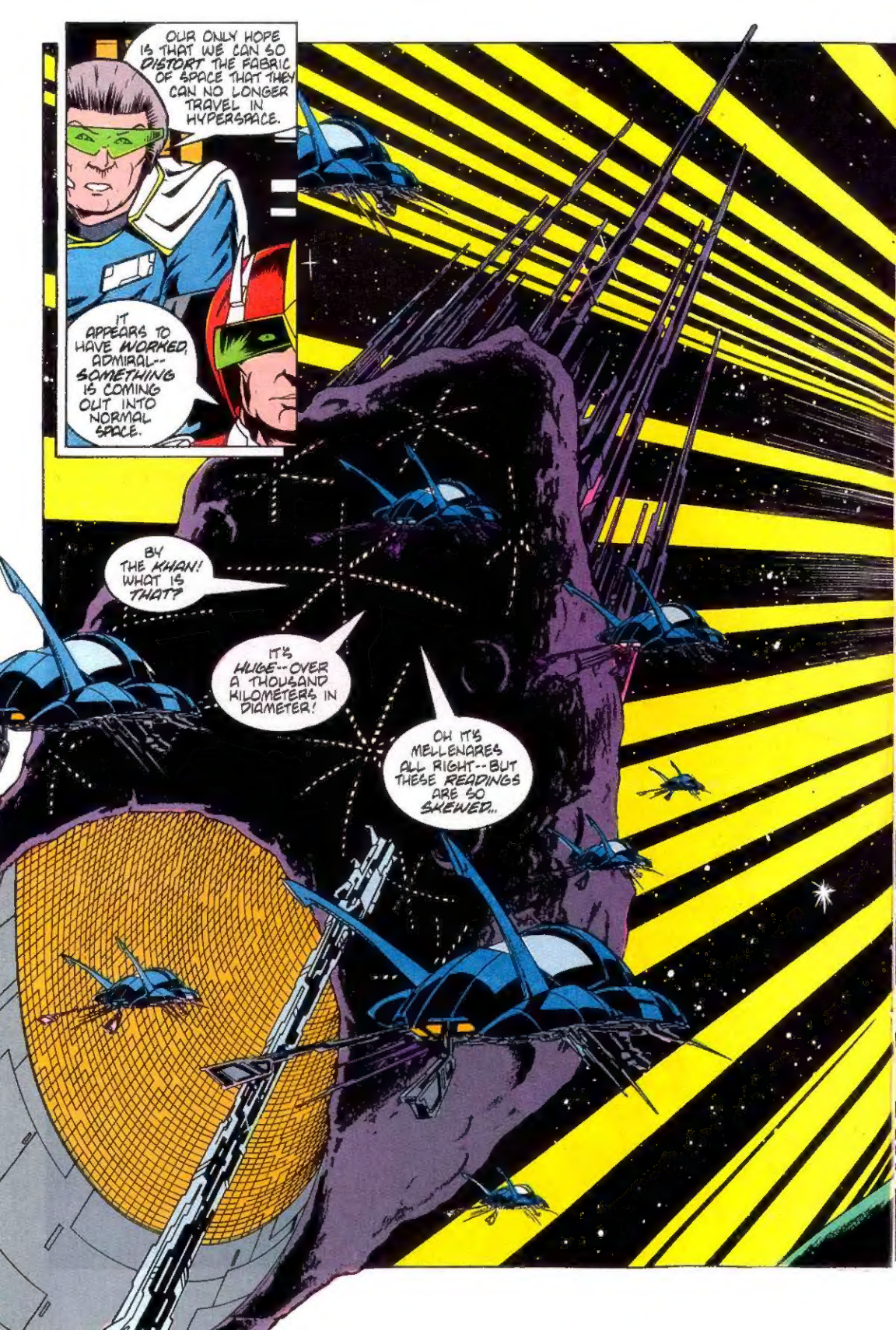
WELCOME BACK, SARGE!!
HAH
WELL, SARGE. I JUST GOTTA SAY...
YAAAA!
HA HA
uh-oh, SORRY ABOUT THE TAIL, POMRU.
YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, SARGE.
MM, STILL TASTES GOOD, TOO!
SO YOU CAME IN ON DELTA, eh, SARGE? HOW'S SHE LOOK?
WELL, I'VE YET TO BE FULLY BRIEFED, BUT WHAT I'VE SEEN IS IMPRESSIVE.
"THE PSYCH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH THE DREAMERS TO ACTUALLY COMMUNICATE WITH THE MELLENARES."
"T-DECK WAS BUZZING ABOUT SOME NEW WEAPONRY THAT THEY'VE JUST DEVELOPED FOR THE DYNAMO SUITS. THEY SAY IT'S ACTUALLY POWERED BY THE MELLENARES THEMSELVES."
"DELTA ITSELF HAS MELLENARES-POWERED CANNONS, AND AN IMPROVED WARP DRIVE UNIT. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SHIMAMURA DECIDED TO OPERATE OUT OF HIS FLAGSHIP AND JUST USED DELTA AS A DESTROYER!"


WELL, POMRU, I SEE THAT YOU'VE BEEN BUSY. JUST GIVE ME THE HIGH POINTS.
WELL, SARGE, I AIN'T HADDA CHANCE YET TO FIND OUT WHAT MAKES WOLF-/ TICK BUT IT'S STILL TAUGHT ME A LOT!
WHY, JUST BY ANALYZING HIS ENERGY WAVE FORM OUTPUT, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO RECALIBRATE AND UPGRADE JOE'S WEAPONS SYSTEMS!
IF IT WORKS WE'LL HAVE TO OVERHAUL THE REST OF SPECTRE SQUADRON AS WELL.
ALL READY UNDERWAY. I'VE ALSO EQUIPPED JOE WITH HIS OWN LEECH GENERATORS AND... WELL HECK, LET ME SHOW YOU THE COMPUTER PRINT-OUTS--
BUT I'D SAY THAT JOE'S ABOUT AS TOUGH AS ONE OF SHAETON'S GALAX-C'S!
I DARE SAY HIS HIGHNESS WILL FIND THAT INTERESTING.
WELL LOOK WHO'S BACK! DIDJA KEEP THEM IMPERIUM GALS SMILIN' ALL NIGHT LONG, SARGE?
VAUTRAVERS! I'D NOTICED YOUR ABSENCE AT THE PARTY.
SOMEBODY'S GOTTA GET TAPPED FOR PATROL. 'SIDES I AIN'T WHAT'CHA CALL A "PARTY ANIMAL."
WE'LL I'VE MISSED OUR PRACTICE SESSIONS, COLONEL, AND...
SO!
UH-OH... INJUNS!
BACK LESS THAN AN HOUR AND DISCIPLINE IS A SHAMBLES. WELL EVEN THOUGH I WASN'T INVITED TO YOUR PARTY, I'VE BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT BY WAY OF ADMIRAL SHIMAMURA, NO LESS.
RAAAH!
A PROMOTION TO OVER-SERGEANT. NO DOUBT FOR SAVING SIGMA BASE*. CONGRATULATIONS.
*ISSUE #7-- RAO.
HAVE YOUR PEOPLE READY TO MOVE OUT.
SSSSK!
AH, IF I COULD BUT SWAY HIM OVER TO THE BLOOD NATION...


ATTENTION ALL DELTA PERSONNEL-- PREPARE FOR HYPERSPACE JUMP.
WE MUST BE READY T'HEAD BACK TO THE BELT.
THERE'S SIGMA...GOING HOME.
ADMIRAL, ALL TRANSFERS ARE COMPLETE. PRINCE SHAETON AND LORD TARWHOON REPORT THAT ALL IMPERIUM AND TAVITAN SHIPS ARE DOCKED AND SECURED.
THE HYPERDRIVE ENGINES ARE WARMED UP AND READY. A COURSE BACK TO THE KIRCHNER BELT HAS BEEN PLOTTED AND LAID IN. AND WE ARE AWAITING YOUR ORDERS.
THANK YOU, DATA-COM 1. SAYONARA, SIGMA. LET US BE ON OUR WAY-- I'M SURE SERGEI IS MOST IMPATIENTLY AWAITING OUR RETURN.
AND SO, WITH A GREAT CRASH OF ENERGY, MOBILE FORTRESS DELTA ENTERS HYPERSPACE TO BEGIN THE FINAL LEG OF ITS JOURNEY.


T-DECK.
...AND YOU CAN THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS THAT I HAPPENED TO COME ACROSS YOUR TRANSFER ORDERS, AND HAD YOU ASSIGNED HERE INSTEAD OF LETTING YOU ROT ON THE MOON OF SOME GAS GIANT. IT'S A GOOD THING YOUR SISTER HAD ME KEEP AN EYE ON YOU, GORMAN.
I APPRECIATE IT, PAUL.
AND I'M SURE YOU'LL NEVER LET ME FORGET IT.
OKAY, NOW HERE ARE THE POWER UNITS FROM DELTA'S MELLENARES-POWERED CANNONS. THEY'RE DESIGNED TO KICK IN AUTOMATICALLY WHEN THEY REGISTER THE MELLENARES BROADCAST ENERGY. WE CAN EVEN TAP IN AND USE THE POWER TO AUGMENT OUR SHIELDS.
KA-CHUNG!
KA-CHUNG!
KA-CHUNG!
KA-CHUNG!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
IT'S A POWER INDICATOR ACTIVATING, BUT...
BUT THIS SHOULDN'T BE HAPPENING!!
VOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
WELL, IT IS! THEY'RE ALL ON--WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
IT'S INCREDIBLE BUT... ADMIRAL SHIMAMURA! THERE ARE MELLENARES WITHIN RANGE!
BUT MAJOR FREAS, WE'RE IN HYPERSPACE!
THEN SO ARE THEY!
MY GOD!

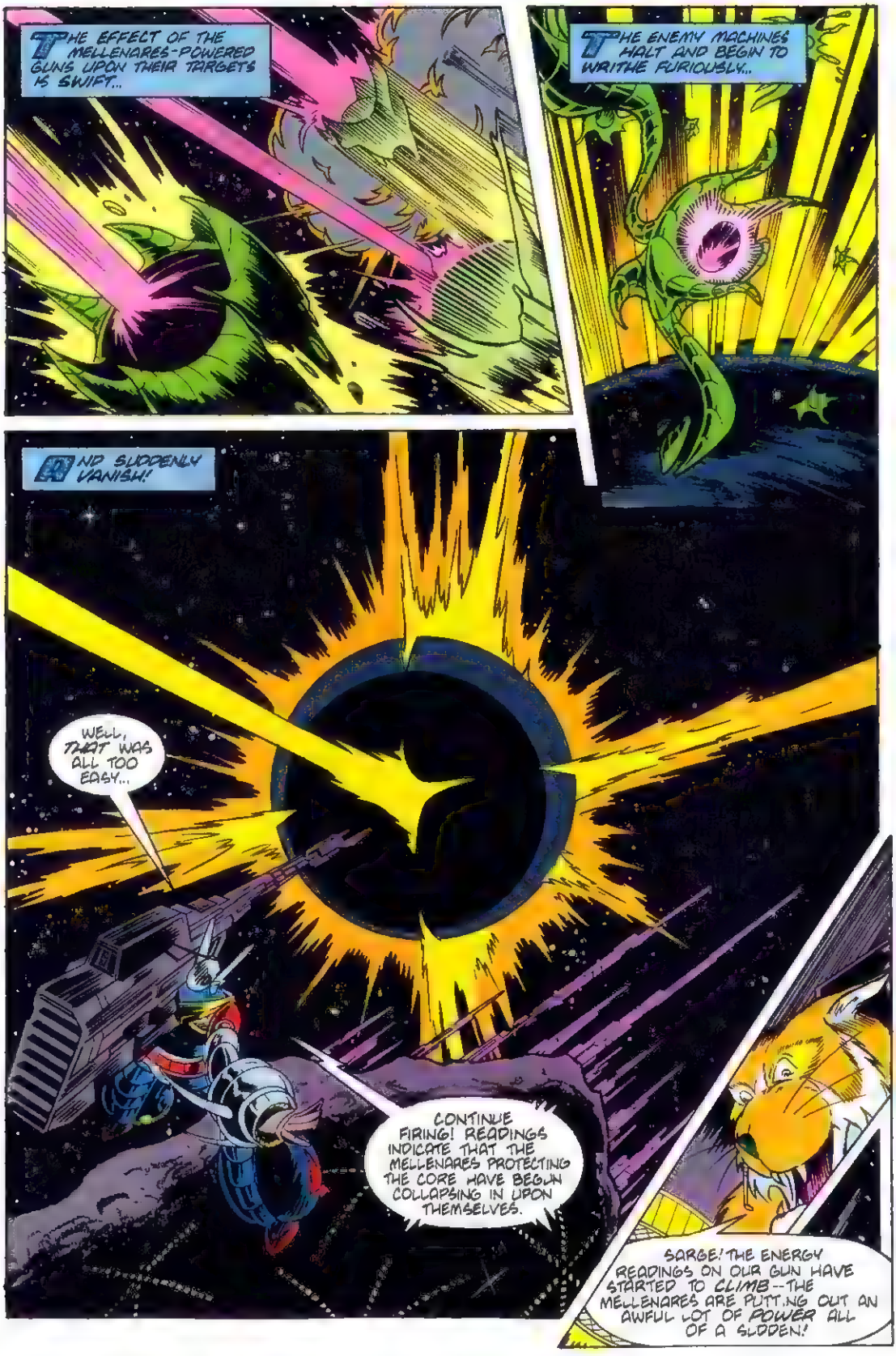

IF THE MELLENARES HAVE DISCOVERED HYPERSPACIAL TRAVEL, THIS WOULD EXPLAIN THE SUDDEN NEED FOR MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY AS POSTULATED DUE TO APPEARANCE OF MELLENARES PLANET EATER.
FACT: THE MELLENARES CONTINUE THE OBSESSIVE STRAIGHT LINE THEY HAVE FOLLOWED SINCE ENTERING OUR GALAXY.
IF THE MELLENARES ARE LOST NOW, WE MAY NOT FIND THEM AGAIN--UNTIL ANOTHER OF THE ALLIANCE WORLDS SUFFERS THE FATE OF NEW BROOKLYN.*
*LAST ISSUE--RAO.
DROP OUT OF HYPERSPACE--NOW!!
WITH AN ALMOST AUDIBLE GROAN, THE SUPER FORTRESS REENTERS 'STEIN SPACE.
HAVE ALL COMBAT UNITS PREPARE FOR ACTION.
ACTIVATE THE MAIN LEECH GENERATORS AND THE TAVITAN CLOAKING GENERATORS! FULL POWER!


OUR ONLY HOPE IS THAT WE CAN SO DISTORT THE FABRIC OF SPACE THAT THEY CAN NO LONGER TRAVEL IN HYPERSPACE.
IT APPEARS TO HAVE WORKED, ADMIRAL-- SOMETHING IS COMING OUT INTO NORMAL SPACE.
BY THE KHAN! WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S HUGE-- OVER A THOUSAND KILOMETERS IN DIAMETER!
OH IT'S MELLENARES ALL RIGHT-- BUT THESE READINGS ARE SO SKEWED...

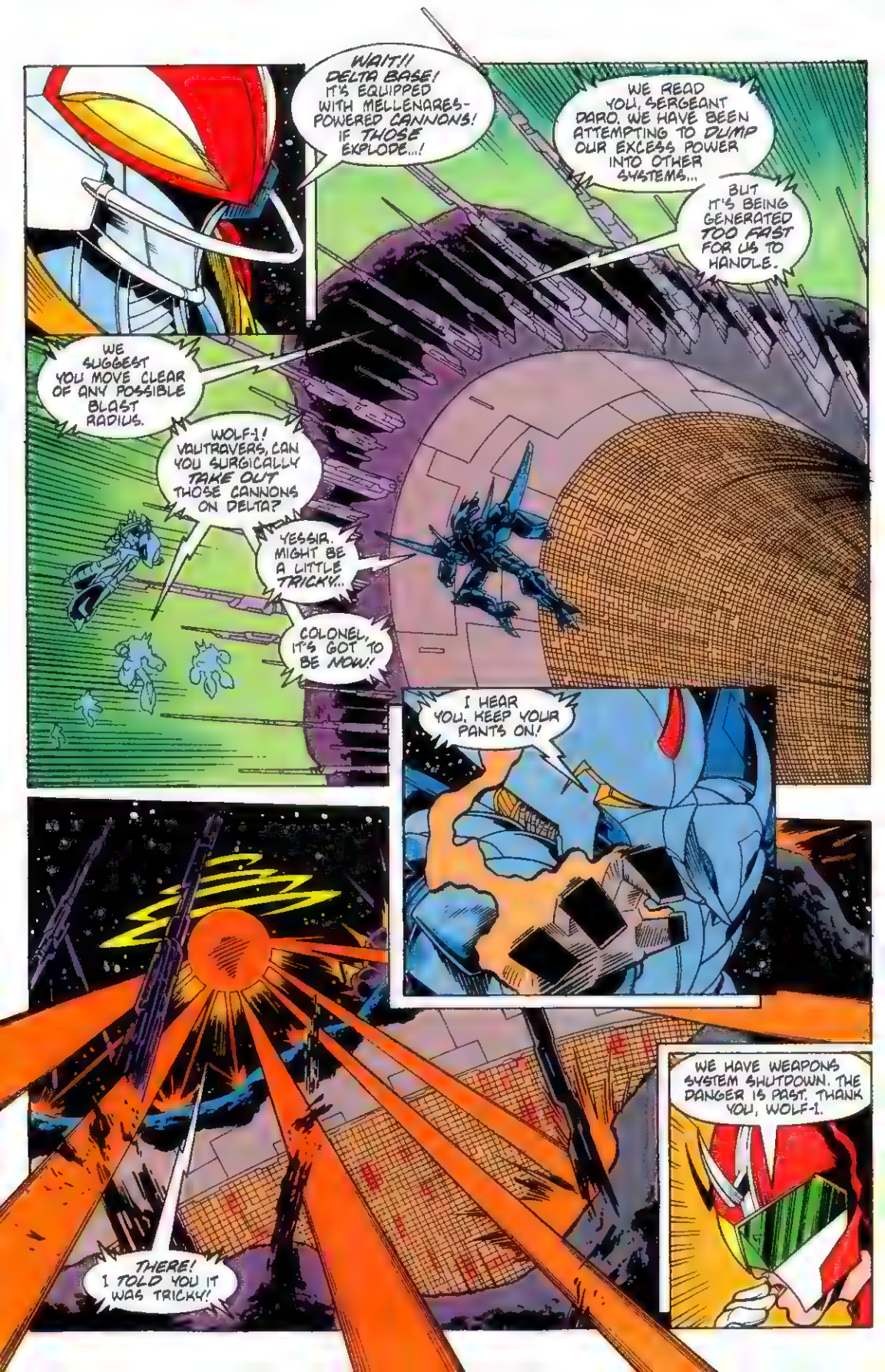
ADMIRAL!! THAT'S THE CORE! IT'S SHEATHED ITSELF IN LAYERS OF MELLENARES KILOMETERS THICK--BUT IT'S IN THERE! THIS IS NO MERE EXPERIMENT-- THE ENEMY IS TRYING TO BYPASS US COMPLETELY!
WE MUST STOP THEM NOW! THEY MUST BE FORCED TO TURN BACK OR BE DESTROYED!

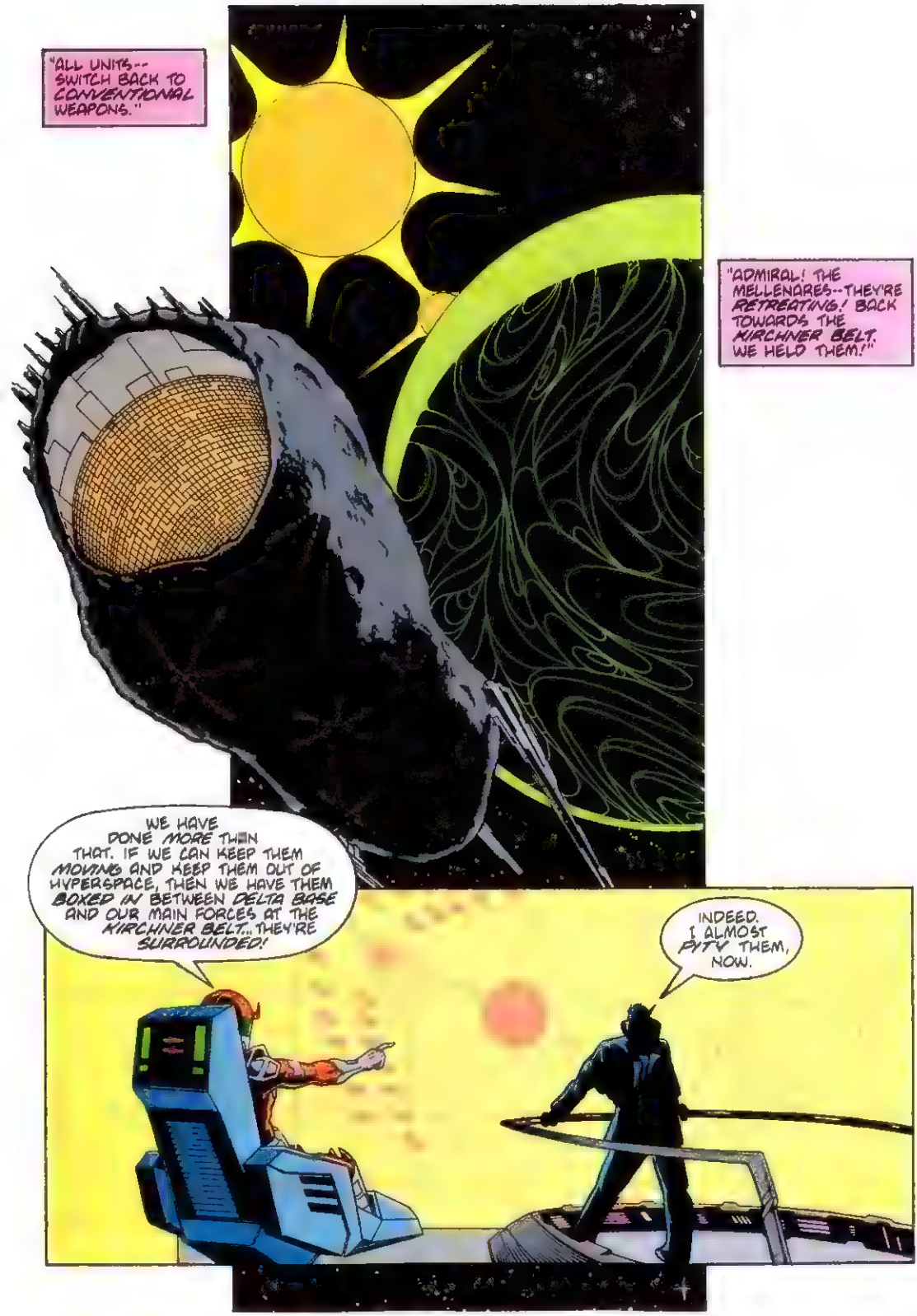
"ALL SHIPS, ALL GUNS-- FIRE!!"
ALL DYNAMO SQUADRONS HAVE BEEN ORDERED INTO BATTLE! INFLICT MAXIMUM DAMAGE UPON THE ENEMY!
SHOW THEM NO MERCY!

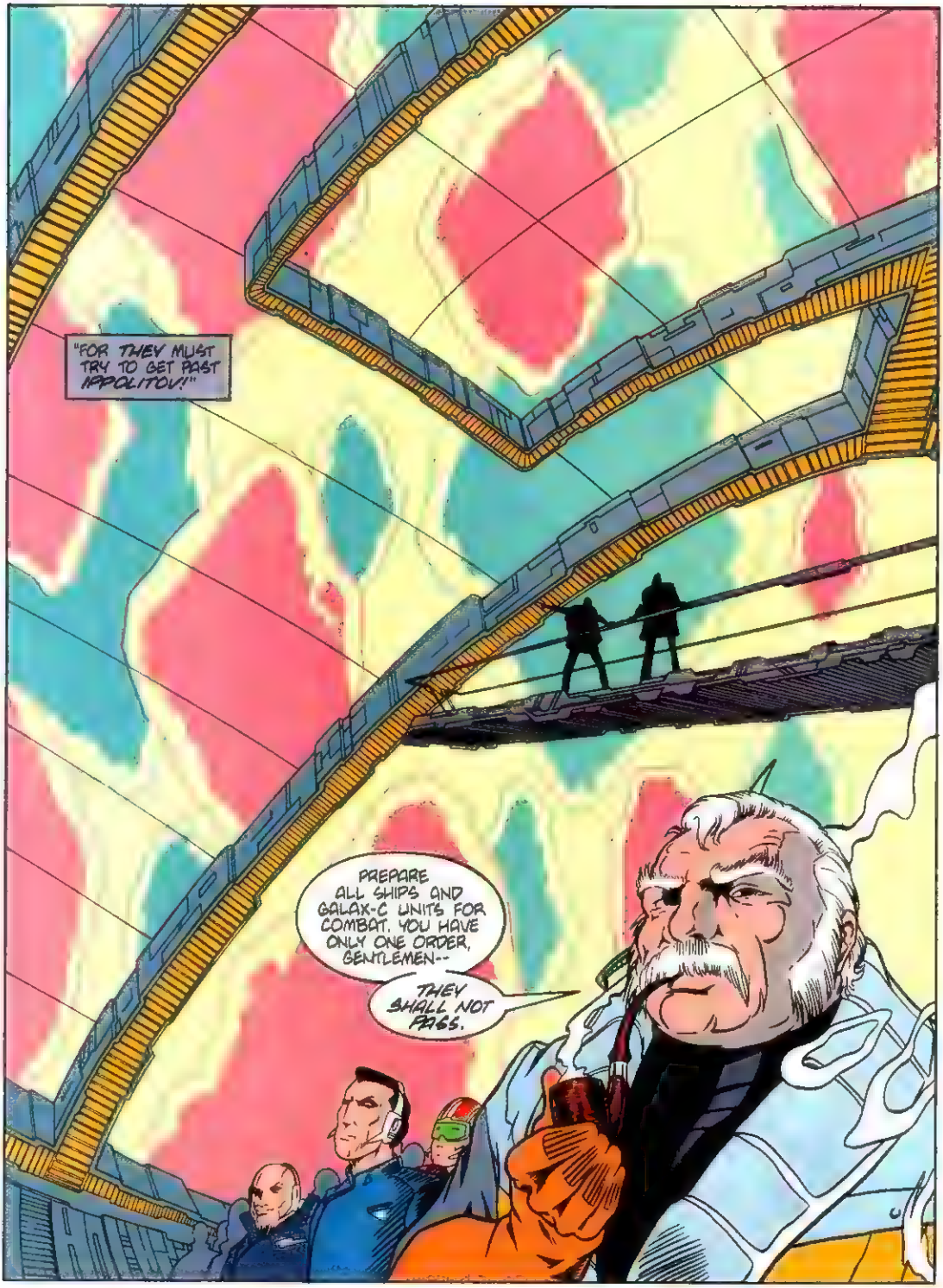
CAT MOTHER! LOOK AT THAT THING! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TRY OUT ONE OF THESE LITTLE BEAUTIES--BUT HECK, ON THAT SUCKER WE DON'T HAVE TO AIM, JUST POINT!
NEGATIVE, PRIVATE.
SPECTRE SQUADRON--IGNORE THE MAIN CORE! WE'LL LET THE BIG GUNS HANDLE THAT. WE'LL CONCENTRATE ON KEEPING THE SMALLER MACHINES FROM GETTING THROUGH. PICK YOUR TARGETS--
FIRE AT WILL!


THE EFFECT OF THE MELLENARES-POWERED GUNS UPON THEIR TARGETS IS SWIFT...
THE ENEMY MACHINES HALT AND BEGIN TO WRITHE FURIOUSLY...
AND SUDDENLY VANISH!
WELL, THAT WAS ALL TOO EASY...
CONTINUE FIRING! READINGS INDICATE THAT THE MELLENARES PROTECTING THE CORE HAVE BEGUN COLLAPSING IN UPON THEMSELVES.
SARGE! THE ENERGY READINGS ON OUR GUN HAVE STARTED TO CLIMB--THE MELLENARES ARE PUTTING OUT AN AWFUL LOT OF POWER ALL OF A SUDDEN!

POWER LEVELS ARE STILL GOIN' UP... HOLY COW-LICK! IT JUST FUSED THE CIRCUIT BREAKERS OPEN! THE GUNS ARE GOING TO OVERLOAD!
THIS IS DELIBERATE! THE MELLENARES ARE TRYING TO OVERLOAD OUR POWER RECEIVERS!
ALL DYNAMO SUITS--DITCH THE GUNS NOW! THEY'RE ABOUT TO...
YEOW! GOOD LONG DISTANCE CALL, SARGE!
BUT HOW DID THE MELLENARES FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO SO QUICKLY? IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT HAD BEEN USED AGAINST THEM BEFORE!
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW?


WAIT!! DELTA BASE! IT'S EQUIPPED WITH MELLENARES-POWERED CANNONS! IF THOSE EXPLODE...!
WE READ YOU, SERGEANT DARO. WE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO DUMP OUR EXCESS POWER INTO OTHER SYSTEMS...
BUT IT'S BEING GENERATED TOO FAST FOR US TO HANDLE.
WE SUGGEST YOU MOVE CLEAR OF ANY POSSIBLE BLAST RADIUS.
WOLF-1! VAUTRAVERS, CAN YOU SURGICALLY TAKE OUT THOSE CANNONS ON DELTA?
YESSIR. MIGHT BE A LITTLE TRICKY...
COLONEL, IT'S GOT TO BE NOW!
I HEAR YOU. KEEP YOUR PANTS ON!
WE HAVE WEAPONS SYSTEM SHUTDOWN. THE DANGER IS PAST. THANK YOU, WOLF-1.
THERE! I TOLD YOU IT WAS TRICKY!


"ALL UNITS--SWITCH BACK TO CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS."
"ADMIRAL! THE MELLENARES--THEY'RE RETREATING! BACK TOWARDS THE KIRCHNER BELT. WE HELD THEM!"
WE HAVE DONE MORE THAN THAT. IF WE CAN KEEP THEM MOVING AND KEEP THEM OUT OF HYPERSPACE, THEN WE HAVE THEM BOXED IN BETWEEN DELTA BASE AND OUR MAIN FORCES AT THE KIRCHNER BELT... THEY'RE SURROUNDED!
INDEED. I ALMOST PITY THEM, NOW.

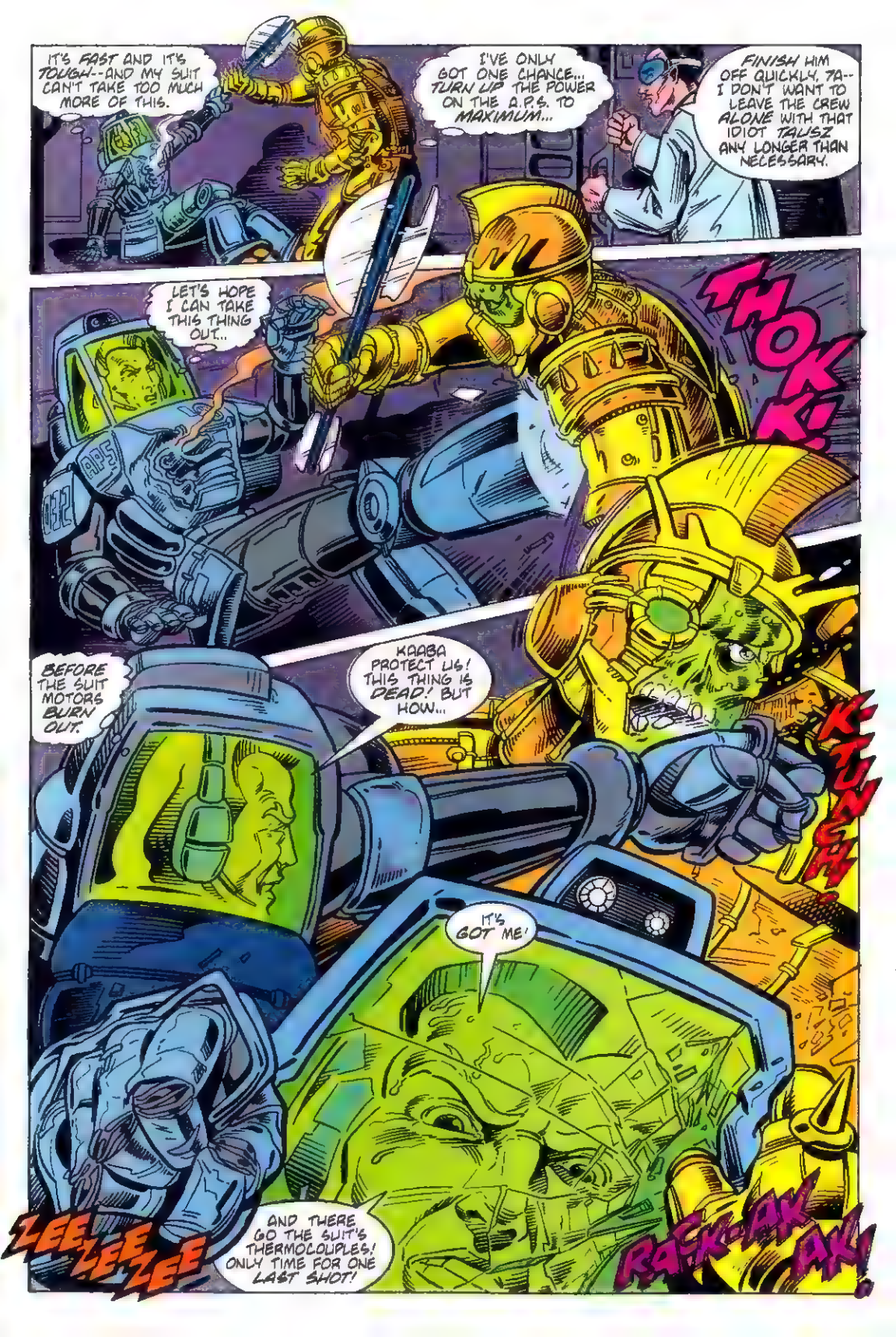

"FOR THEY MUST TRY TO GET PAST APPOLITOV!"
PREPARE ALL SHIPS AND GALAX-C UNITS FOR COMBAT. YOU HAVE ONLY ONE ORDER, GENTLEMEN--
THEY SHALL NOT PASS.

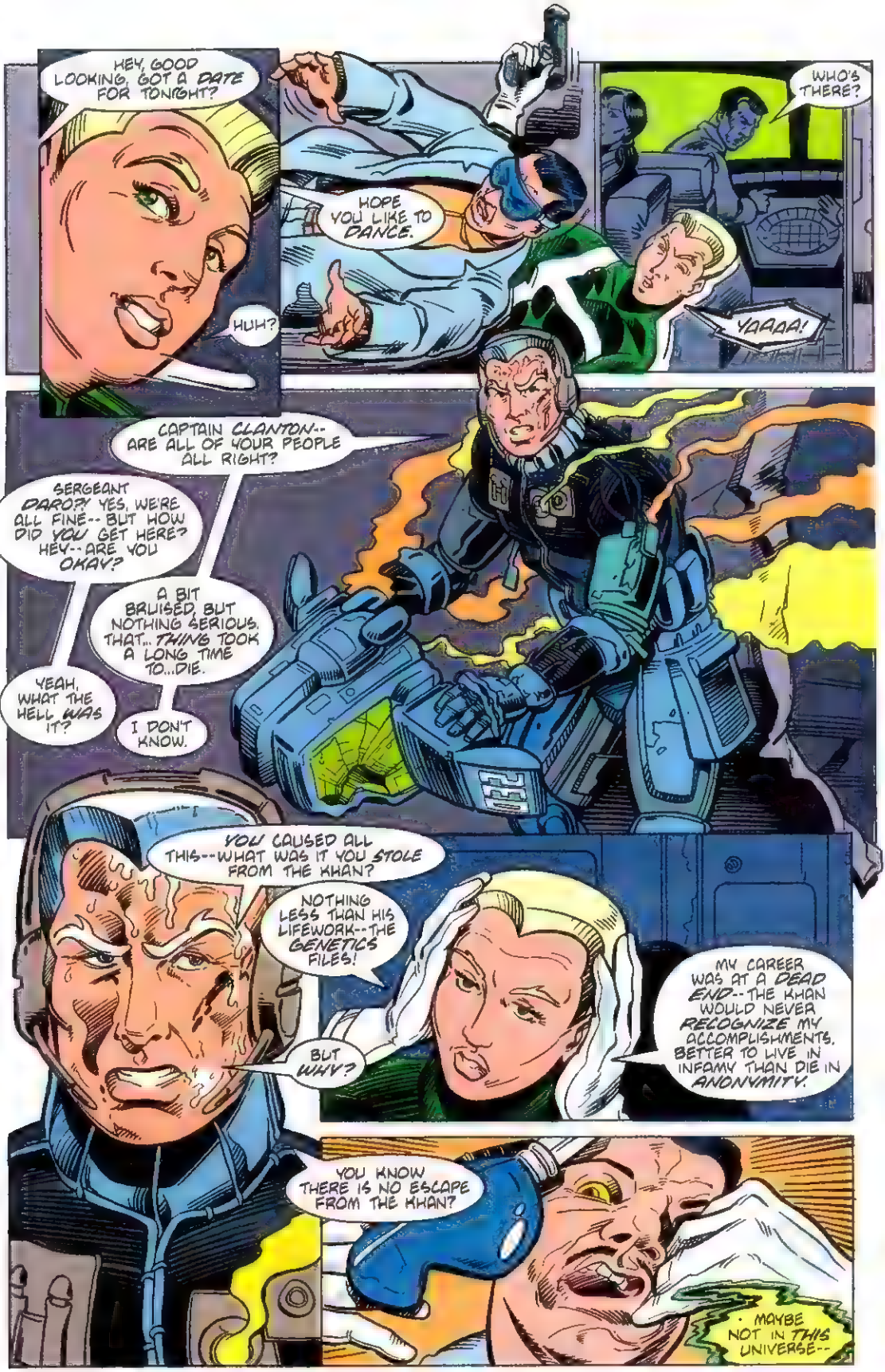
NEXT THIS CALLS FOR HYPERSPACE!

PAUL GUINAN plot-pencils
PHIL FOGLIO plot-script
PAUL ABRAMS inks
WILLIE SCHUBERT letters
RICK TAYLOR colors
RICK OLIVER killjoy

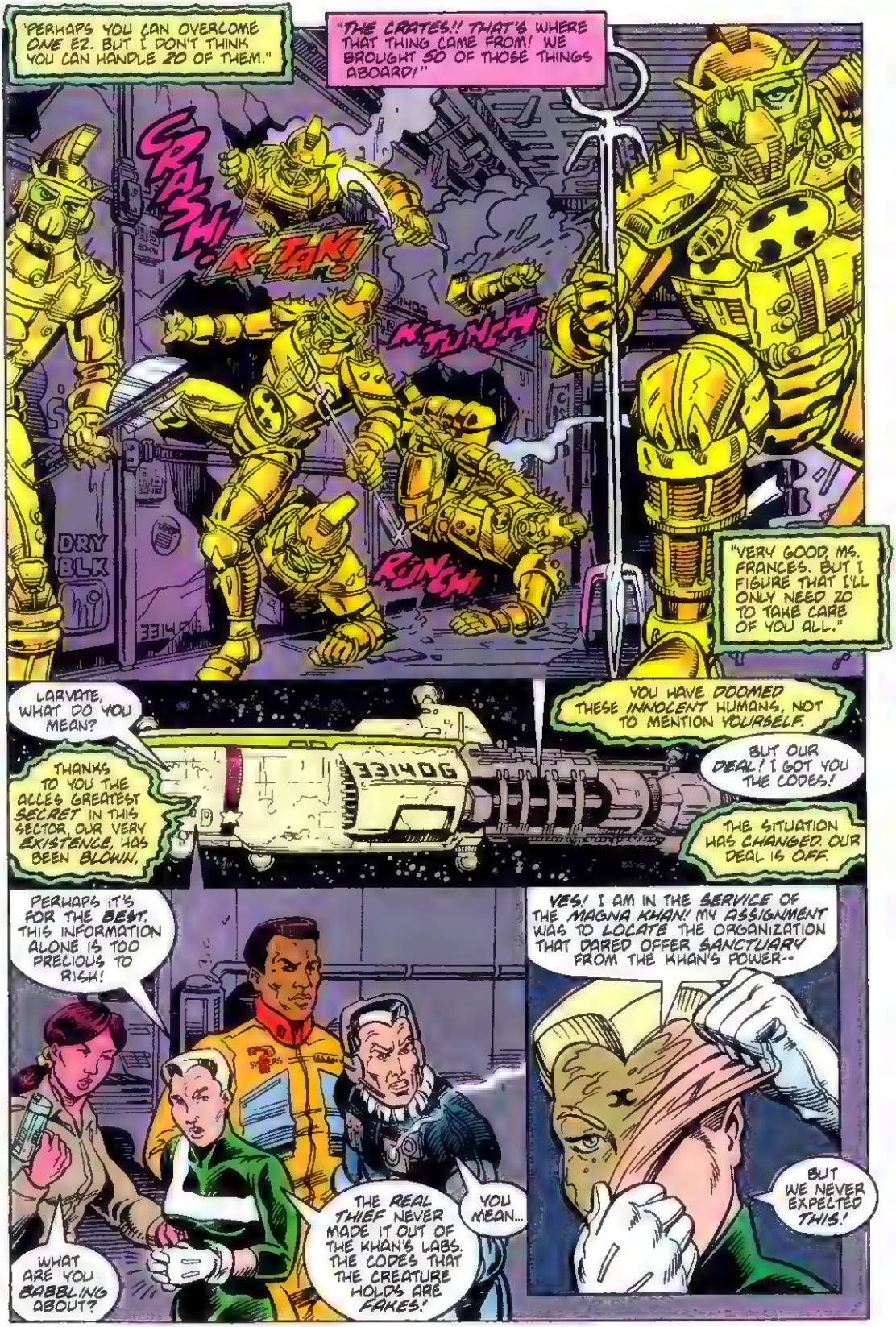
"TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON. A TIME TO SOW, AND A TIME TO REAP. A TIME TO LAUGH, AND A TIME TO CRY. A TIME TO LIVE, AND A TIME TO DIE."
--RICK OLIVER

EVENTS IN THIS STORY *PRECEDE* EVENTS IN THIS ISSUE'S LEAD FEATURE.--RAO.


IT'S FAST AND IT'S TOUGH--AND MY SUIT CAN'T TAKE TOO MUCH MORE OF THIS.
I'VE ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE... TURN UP THE POWER ON THE A.P.S. TO MAXIMUM...
FINISH HIM OFF QUICKLY, ZA-- I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THE CREW ALONE WITH THAT IDIOT TAUSZ ANY LONGER THAN NECESSARY.
LET'S HOPE I CAN TAKE THIS THING OUT...
THOK!
BEFORE THE SUIT MOTORS BURN OUT.
KAABA PROTECT US! THIS THING IS DEAD! BUT HOW...
KTUNCH
IT'S GOT ME!
ZEE ZEE ZEE
AND THERE GO THE SUIT'S THERMOCOUPLES! ONLY TIME FOR ONE LAST SHOT!
RA-KA-AK AK!


HEY, GOOD LOOKING, GOT A DATE FOR TONIGHT?
HUH?
HOPE YOU LIKE TO DANCE.
WHO'S THERE?
YAAAA!
CAPTAIN CLANTON--ARE ALL OF YOUR PEOPLE ALL RIGHT?
SERGEANT DARO?! YES, WE'RE ALL FINE--BUT HOW DID YOU GET HERE? HEY--ARE YOU OKAY?
A BIT BRUISED, BUT NOTHING SERIOUS. THAT... THING TOOK A LONG TIME TO...DIE.
YEAH, WHAT THE HELL WAS IT?
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU CAUSED ALL THIS--WHAT WAS IT YOU STOLE FROM THE KHAN?
NOTHING LESS THAN HIS LIFEWORK--THE GENETICS FILES!
BUT WHY?
MY CAREER WAS AT A DEAD END--THE KHAN WOULD NEVER RECOGNIZE MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. BETTER TO LIVE IN INFAMY THAN DIE IN ANONYMITY.
YOU KNOW THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE KHAN?
. MAYBE NOT IN THIS UNIVERSE--

THE ARROGANCE OF YOUR SPECIES IS A CONSTANT SOURCE OF AMUSEMENT. AS INCONCEIVABLE AS IT MAY BE TO YOU, SERGEANT, THERE ARE INDEED PLACES WHERE YOUR KHAN CANNOT GO.
SHLURP!
BECAUSE HE DOES NOT KNOW THAT THEY EXIST. WE GUARD OUR SECRETS WELL--BETTER EVEN THAN THE KHAN.
NOW WE HAVE HIS SECRETS.
SKRAAP!
BUT IN THE PROCESS YOU HAVE LEARNED ONE OF OURS, AND I AM AFRAID THAT IS AN UNACCEPTABLE TRADE.
SPLOP-OP!
KHAN! WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU WANT THE KHAN'S WORKS IN HUMAN GENETICS?
WE OF THE ALPHA CENTAURI COMMERCIAL EMPIRE KNOW THAT YOUR KHAN IS ATTEMPTING TO CREATE THE PERFECT HUMAN. WE USE A HUMAN MATRIX AS THE CORE OF OUR EZ BRUTES. IMAGINE HOW MUCH BETTER WE COULD MAKE THEM IF WE STARTED WITH A PERFECT SUBJECT.
FORGET IT. THESE CODES ARE GOING BACK TO THE KHAN, WHERE THEY BELONG.
YOU THINK SO, EH?


"PERHAPS YOU CAN OVERCOME ONE EZ. BUT I DON'T THINK YOU CAN HANDLE 20 OF THEM."
"THE CRATES!! THAT'S WHERE THAT THING CAME FROM! WE BROUGHT 50 OF THOSE THINGS ABOARD!"
CRASH!
K-TAK!
K-TUNCH
RUNCH!
DRY BLK
"VERY GOOD, MS. FRANCES. BUT I FIGURE THAT I'LL ONLY NEED 20 TO TAKE CARE OF YOU ALL."
LARVATE, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THANKS TO YOU THE ALLES GREATEST SECRET IN THIS SECTOR, OUR VERY EXISTENCE, HAS BEEN BLOWN.
3314DG
YOU HAVE DOOMED THESE INNOCENT HUMANS, NOT TO MENTION YOURSELF.
BUT OUR DEAL! I GOT YOU THE CODES!
THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED. OUR DEAL IS OFF.
PERHAPS IT'S FOR THE BEST. THIS INFORMATION ALONE IS TOO PRECIOUS TO RISK!
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?
THE REAL THIEF NEVER MADE IT OUT OF THE KHAN'S LABS. THE CODES THAT THE CREATURE HOLDS ARE FAKES!
YOU MEAN...
YES! I AM IN THE SERVICE OF THE MAGNA KHAN! MY ASSIGNMENT WAS TO LOCATE THE ORGANIZATION THAT DARED OFFER SANCTUARY FROM THE KHAN'S POWER--
BUT WE NEVER EXPECTED THIS!

MAYBE WE CAN USE THIS THING AS A HOSTAGE... AAAAH!!
BAD IDEA! GIVE ME THE WEAPON AND YOU WILL MERELY RETURN WITH ME TO CYNOSURE, A PERMANENT EXILE, BUT PREFERABLE TO DEATH. NOT BE REASONABLE!
GET IT OFF OF ME!
I'M TRYING! JAZZ, SEAL ALL THE HATCHES. THAT'LL SLOW THEM DOWN, AT LEAST!
CLACK
WHIRRRR
AAAH! MY WRIST!
HATCHES SEALED, CAPTAIN!
CHOOOM!
I'M EMPOWERED TO OFFER YOU A GENEROUS PENSION PLAN AND WORK WITH OUR COMPANY--IF YOU COOPERATE! GIVE ME THE GUN!
GET... IT... OFF!
FRANCES! NO!!
THAT WAS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION YOU SHOT!
CAN YOU FIND THE EZ CONTROL UNIT?
BAY
ZAP! ZAP! ZAP!
... PLUS STOCK OPTIONS THAAAARGHHH!!
I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S MACHINE AND WHAT'S ALIEN.
WE DON'T CARRY ANY.
CAPTAIN, WHAT'S WHAT'S OUR WEAPONS STATUS?

OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO HIDE. FOLLOW ME!
BUT THOSE THINGS WILL BE ALL OVER THE SHIP.
WHAT ABOUT OUTSIDE THE SHIP? HOPEFULLY, THOSE THINGS CAN'T FUNCTION IN DEEP SPACE.
WELL, WHAT OTHER CHOICES DO WE HAVE?
NONE.
THEN IT'S A GREAT PLAN! SUIT UP!
I HOPE THAT CAVALRY OF YOURS SHOWS UP, SERGEANT.
TAUSZ, WHY AREN'T YOU SUITING UP?
I'M BUYING YOU TIME.
SPECIALIST
PILOT
CAPTA
LOOK, WE DON'T HAVE A WHOLE LOT OF TIME TO ARGUE--
THIS INFORMATION IS WORTH ANY NUMBER OF OUR LIVES AS LONG AS IT GETS BACK TO THE KHAN!
KA-KAK
THAT'S THE HATCH! MOVE I'LL KEEP THEM BUSY!
ZAP!

BARELY MINUTES LATER...
BLUE SPACE! HERE THEY COME ALL READY! SHE DIDN'T HOLD OUT VERY LONG.
LONGER THAN THAN WE WILL. HOW CAN THEY OPERATE WITHOUT SUITS?
I DON'T THINK THEY BREATHE.
A PRINCESS NO LESS. GLAD TO SEE THEY'RE SERIOUS.
EVEN THE KHAN'S OFFSPRING CAN'T REVIVE THE DEAD, CAPTAIN THEY'RE GOING TO BE A BIT TOO LATE.
CAPTAIN
ATTENTION STAR OF MILWAUKEE. THIS IS THE 3RD IMPERIUM WING SQUADRON, PRINCESS CADMILUS COMMANDING. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HEY! THE CARGO ARMS... THEY'RE MOVING.
THEY MUST'VE SHORTED OUT THE CONTROLS, SOMEHOW.
NO-- THEY'RE DEFINITELY UNDER CONTROL!
YOU MUST DIE--
BUT WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO... OH! I GET IT!
YI!
IT MUST BE TAUSZ! SHE MADE IT!
OF COURSE. WHO ELSE COULD IT POSSIBLY BE? IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS WHEN I WONDER WHY I EVEN BOTHER.

THEY'RE STILL COMING! WING SQUADRON! THIS IS SERGEANT DARO-- TAKE OUT THE SHIP'S TOWER!
WE READ YOU, SERGEANT.
MAYBE WE CAN GET THEM ALL WITH ONE SHOT!
CAPTAIN
BUT YOU JUST SHOT UP MY SHIP!
WE ARE SENDING TROOPS TO SECURE YOUR POSITION.
PROCEED WITH CAUTION! HOSTILES ARE OF AN UNKNOWN TYPE.
WE COPY SERGEANT...WE'RE ONLY GETTING ONE LIFE READING--LOOKS HUMAN.
JUST BEHIND THE COCKPIT AREA.
IT'S AGENT TAUSZ! SHE HID IN THE SUIT LOCKER!
GLAD TO SEE YOU MADE IT, CAPTAIN!

I AM PRINCESS CADMILUS. ON BEHALF OF MY FATHER, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. YOU MUST ALLOW US TO REPAIR YOUR SHIP FOR YOU.
THE KAHN WILL NO DOUBT REWARD YOU WELL, CAPTAIN CLANTON.
OH, I'LL JUST BET HE WILL.
WHAT'S WRONG CAPTAIN?
WHAT?!
HALF THE EQUIPMENT ON BOARD THE 'STAR' WAS MADE BY THIS ACCE OUTFIT. THEY'LL TAKE THE SHIP APART. OUR STATUS WILL PROBABLY BE CHANGED TO THAT OF PERMANENT GUEST OF THE IMPERIUM.
THEY COULDN'T!
CLANTON
SISTER
WHO IS GOING TO STOP HIM? BESIDES, WE ALSO KNOW THE SECRET OF THESE ALIENS...
JUST THE FACT THAT THEY EXIST... PEOPLE LIKE US DISAPPEAR OVER SECRETS LIKE THAT.
BUT CAPTAIN... WHAT CAN WE DO?
SIMPLE— WE WAIT UNTIL IT'S NO LONGER A SECRET.
END.

Dear Tabby

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL 60610

Dear Hairballs,

Dinah Mojo just gets better and better every month. Zowie! Phil Foglio's artwork was a great contribution to issue 8. The slapstick in the Pomru vs. Pomru battle was refreshing against the sombre backdrop of the Orion War. I was amused. I laughed. After all, that's what comic books are for, right?

The story, however, worked on a higher intellectual (rather than instinctual) level than found in most comics. At last, more of the Mellenares' mystique is revealed.

Though I figured that ol'Pomru would think to install thought wave shielding in DJ whilst refitting him (her, it?). Oh well, guess he just wasn't thinking. I hope Sigma Base's engineers think about it. The last dreamer incident was a night -- er, bad situation.

Neil Prestemon
1512 Buena Vista Drive
Wheaton, IL 60187

To the editor,

My name is Clarence James.

This is my first time reading Dynamo Joe. I love the artwork and the story concept.

I've been searching for a comic book better than Robo-tech with only *one ultimate super robot*, like the Saturday TV shows of the *Mighty Orbots*, which I miss so dearly!

What I wish for you to do is to make one ultimate hero and that should be Wolf-1.

Here are two things you should do:

1) Keep the title Dynamo Joe just combine Galax-C Robots with Wolf-1, or

2) Make another comic about Wolf-1.

All in all, both I will buy!

Clarence James
293 Monroe Street
Brooklyn, NY 11216

***Doug Rice** and **Phil Foglio** have some very big plans for Wolf-1 in the near future. Stick around and find out what.*

Hi there Tabby,

I waited till the end of the first DJ story to voice my thoughts.

They are things like "Wow!" and "great stuff" and "If there were four Doug Rices would the comic be weekly?"

One of the main problems I can see with the writing in such a series is that of having Spectre Squadron involved in high-powered important missions without it all looking highly contrived and using the excuse of "Well, it *is* their comic." This has been overcome for just now with the inclusion of Wolf-1 in the squad. The danger here is that it will overshadow the Dynamo robosoldiers too much without more contrivance, and for that reason I cannot see either Wolf-1 or the Colonel remaining around an awful lot longer (whether they will get shifted somewhere else, or get squelched remains to be seen).

I'm still wondering how Doug Rice — who I'm sure must be Japanese, despite what Mr. Ostrander said. After all, some Japanese must have pet dugs which must also eat a lot of rice. Thus, further proof of Mr. Rice's secret nationality — manages to put such expression into Joe's immobile face.

By the way, what is an "erg of power?" I thought an erg was a big bit of sand. Maybe I'm talking rubbish (again?).

In summary: great stuff. You've got your work cut out for you, but if you keep to this standard then I'll keep buying.

P.S. Please number your pages.

P.P.S. Bring back the dynashield.

Jack O'Rien
Edinburgh, Scotland

Hey,

Was just thumbing through the letter column of DJ #7. I read one letter that really got me, well, you know, mad, so I figured I'd write in and let off some steam:

I don't know what it is with people, but they read a few comics and all of a sudden they know everything. They just write in and say, "Cool comic, but this name isn't right and the story isn't totally original and there have already been cat-aliens, and funny how they all breathe the same air, etc., etc., etc.."

I don't know about you, but that kind of criticism *really gets me.* Those people, who know so much and are so right, should GO WRITE THEIR OWN *&%$# COMICS! Hey, sorry for the tasteless language. Why don't you tell people like that off? They act so high and mighty and they're so full of dirt, I really do feel sick when I read their letters.

Anyways, realizing that that can't really be printed, the attached is what I would like to say "on the record," if there is room in the back of a future DJ:

Dear Pomru,

How's space? That's cool. Tell Sarge I said, "Hi."

Well, I've been building my own Dynamo battlesuit (using plans in the back of DJ Special #1), and I've come across a few questions.

1) I haven't figured out where the sword is kept. Does it retract and fit onto the sleeve, or attach to the back, or what?

2) Is there any way to see all three Dynamo modes (another special?), and did the face change with the mode (Mark 1 to Mark 2)?

3) My fusion micro-reactor has a faulty secondary cooling system, which isn't good. Can you help me?

4) How about you bring Joe over to my place for milk and cookies.

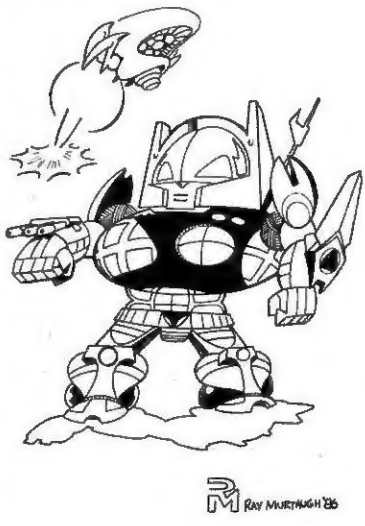
5) I did find a way to over-ride the surge limiter on the plasma cannon! I'll send details later. You'll love it!!!

A. Brownlee
Burlington Interspace
134 King Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Ha! Fooled you, A.! I couldn't decide which of your letters was more entertaining, so I printed both of them! Oh, by the way, DJ's on his way over to your house right now; so I hope you have some really big cookies.

Dear Editor,

In almost every class I have ever attended, there was always one "person" who was more than willing to point out every little error that the instructor made. I loathe to become one of these nuisances, but I beg to report that absolute zero is -460 degrees Fahrenheit, not -450. On the lighter side, absolute zero is -273 degrees Celsius.



Do not let this minor flaw disturb you, for I enjoy reading Dynamo Joe every month. This month's focus on Pomru was interesting, not the greatest issue, but you can't have everything (where would you put it?). The story was more of a set-up for future tales. The most obvious was of course the capture of a live Mellenares. The knowledge that this will bring will certainly attract more fame, and perhaps some justice, to the Dynamo Joe crew. But there's more to it all than a "simple" capture of the alien. The theft of the computer to improve DJ shows how much the war means to Pomru. He's not just out there to tinker around with a big toy. His life and the lives of others are on the line, and he knows it. Even though the methods may be rightfullly disturbing to Kaeto, there is still hope for success with the determination of Pomru. I look forward to seeing the many plots and sub-plots begin to unfold in the future.

Now on to the subject of the Cargonauts. I enjoy reading this back-up story. Although the artwork can be weak at times, the ideas behind it all are good. The fastest cargo ship in the galaxy opens up many op - portunities, and I can see a writer falling into a rut. With everyone be-bopping all over and a Snidely Whiplash at every port to pester them, the Cargonauts could become wasted pages in a good strip. In comparing the first two stops, there is no sign of a rut. Muscle may have got them off the first planet, but it was brains that saved them the second time. I am not one to complain about a good brawl once in awhile (being a Badger fan), but I also know you can't punch the daylights out of everything and still expect to come up roses (I also read Whisper). Good luck with the Cargonauts and don't let the Space-Herpes get ahold of DJ while on R&R.

Kurt "Thumper" Blumer
29 E. St. Joseph Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Glad you liked Cargonauts, Kurt. But this issue is the last you'll be seeing of those whacky truckers in space... for a while, anyway. Because...

NEXT MONTH: DJ gets bigger and better than ever! **Dynamo Joe** expands to full-length stories in full-color and joins the First Deluxe line! By **Phil Foglio, Doug Rice,** and **Brian Thomas.**

—Rick Oliver

FIRST NOTES

LONE WOLF and MILLER

Since its debut in Japan in 1970 as *Kozure Okami*, the 28 volume epic by writer **Kazuo Koike** and artist **Goseki Kojima** has set the standard for the Samurai graphic story genre. With an incredible Japanese circulation of over six million copies sold, **Lone Wolf and Cub** has spawned six live action theatrical films, a television series, four stage plays, and five hit records (based on the property.)

And now First introduces the English-language edition of **Lone Wolf and Cub** as a monthly, 64 page, square bound book for only $1.95 — with a special bonus premiere issue of 96 pages for the same low price.

Renowned comics writer and artist **Frank Miller** will provide new full-color covers for the first twelve issues and an ongoing series of introductions. Collaborating with Miller on the covers will be colorist **Lynn Varley**.

NEW HAWKMOON SERIES

First Comics begins the third limited series in the adaptation of **Michael Moorcock's** *History of the Runestaff*, continuing the storylines of *The Jewel in the Skull* and *The Mad God's Amulet*. Joining artist **Rafael Kayanan** on **Hawkmoon: The Sword of the Dawn** is scripter **Roger Salick.** A freelance journalist with a regular feature in the *Milwaukee Journal*, Salick was encouraged to expand into the comics medium by **Mike Baron**. Salick also writes the Judah Maccabee back-up series in **Nexus**.

Dorian Hawkmoon and his companions have enjoyed a time of relative tranquility since Castle Brass was transported to another dimension to avoid destruction by Baron Meliadus' horde. But now the hidden location of the Kamarg has been discovered, and Hawkmoon and D'Averc must travel to Londra to learn how much the Dark Empire knows.

ALL-DEAD GRIMJACK?

Is there life after death? Do heaven and hell exist? If they do, which one will be waiting for John Gaunt?

Everybody dies sometime, and almost everybody in **Grimjack** #38 has already found that out — the hard way!

In this issue, a very dead hero goes to heaven... and then straight to hell!

Don't worry; it's only a comic book. Maybe next issue we'll say it was all just a bad dream. Maybe. But *don't* count on it.

FIRST IN MAY

American Flagg #44: They look like Reuben Flagg, and they dress like Reuben Flagg — but what do they want with the *real* Reuben Flagg? Mandy's the target of unknown assassins, and Reuben's about to be "rescued" by... himself? By **Marc DeMatteis** and **Mark Badger**.

Badger #27: Wisconsin *invaded*? By *roaches*? The Roach Wrangler is leading an army of roaches across the border to destroy Barneveld! By **Mike Baron** and **Bill Reinhold**. Deluxe series.

The Chronicles of Corum #5: Beginning the adaptation of *The Queen of the Swords* by **Michael Moorcock.** Corum is visited by a strangely familiar ally. By **Mike Baron, Mike Mignola** and **Kelley Jones**. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Dreadstar #32: Dreadstar wakes from his two year coma to find himself in a "Brave New World," one that is decidedly different than he had envisioned — and one that may not need superheroes — or *want* Vanth Dreadstar. By **Jim Starlin** and **Sam Grainger**. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Dynamo Joe #11: Until now, the Mellenares have only been able to travel at sub-light speeds. But one can learn a lot from one's enemies, and the Mellenares have learned the secrets of hyperspace! By **Phil Foglio, Doug Rice** and **Brian Thomas**. And the conclusion to Cargonauts by Foglio and **Paul Guinan**.

Evangeline #3: Evangeline is sent to Siberia to retrieve "Romanov's Gold." By **Charles Dixon, Judith Hunt** and **Ricardo Villagran**. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

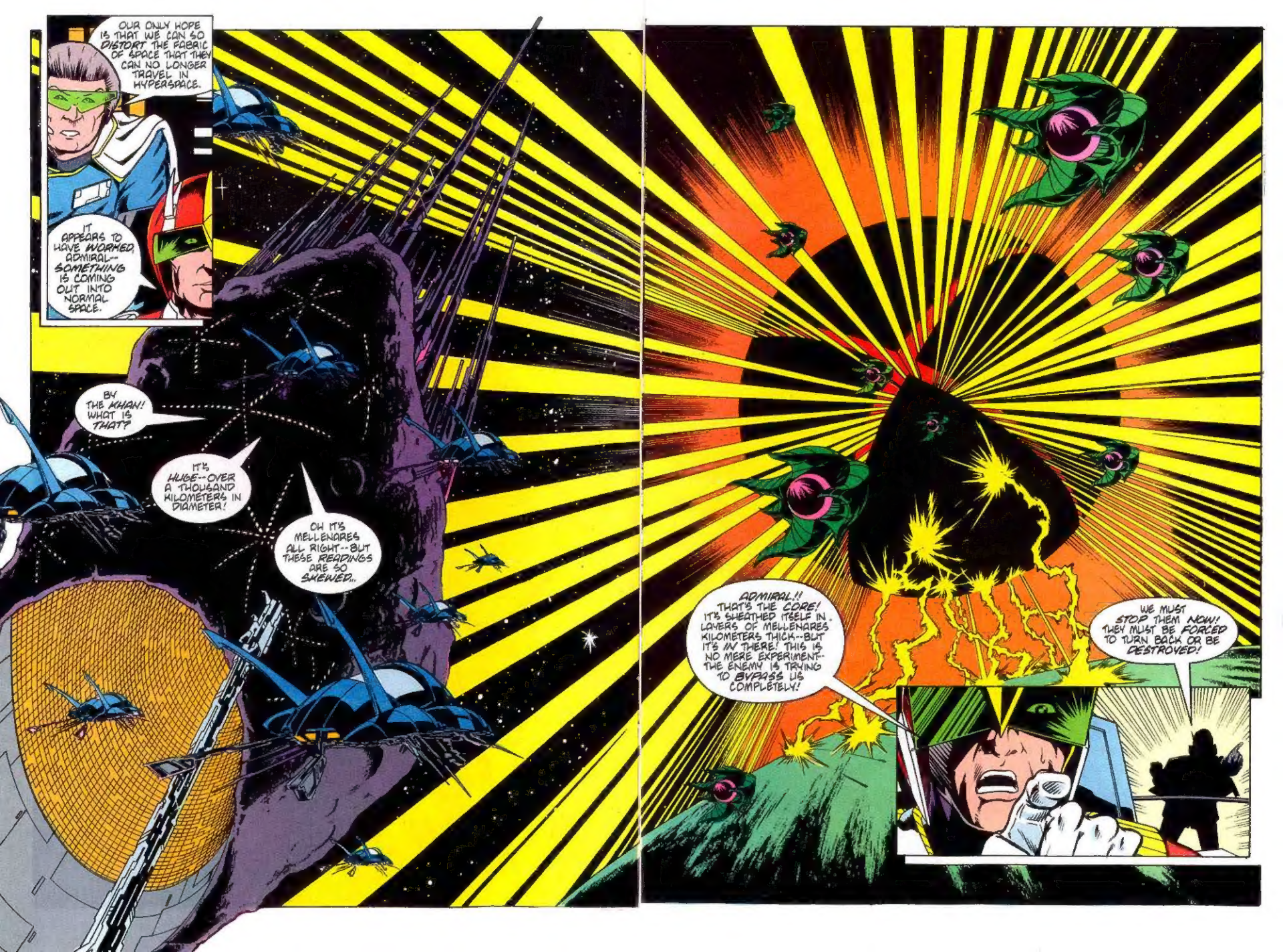
Grimjack #38: Is there life after death? Is there a heaven and a hell? And if the soul departs, what happens to the *body*? John Gaunt is about to discover the answers to all these questions! And more!! By **John Ostrander** and **Tom Mandrake**. And Munden's Bar by Ostrander and **Barry Crain**.

Hawkmoon: The Sword of the Dawn #1: Beginning the adaptation of the third book in **Michael Moorcock's** *History of the Runestaff*. By **Roger Salick** and **Rafael Kayanan**. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Jon Sable, Freelance #51: Sable has to babysit Eden Kendall's son for twenty-four hours. How much trouble can a kid get into in one day? Plenty — if he goes around pretending to be Jon Sable. By **Mike Grell** and **Gerald Forton**. Deluxe series.

Lone Wolf and Cub #1: The beginning of the greatest Japanese Samurai epic of all time. By **Kazuo Koike** and **Goseki Kojima**. With full color covers by **Frank Miller.** Black & white. 96 pages.

Nexus #36: Ylum's newest refugee asks Nexus to rescue her poet uncle who is a political prisoner in a Sov prison. By **Mike Baron, Steve Rude** and **John Nyberg**. Deluxe series.


OUR ONLY HOPE IS THAT WE CAN SO DISTORT THE FABRIC OF SPACE THAT THEY CAN NO LONGER TRAVEL IN HYPERSPACE.
IT APPEARS TO HAVE WORKED, ADMIRAL--SOMETHING IS COMING OUT INTO NORMAL SPACE.
BY THE KHAN! WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S HUGE--OVER A THOUSAND KILOMETERS IN DIAMETER!
OH IT'S MELLENARES ALL RIGHT--BUT THESE READINGS ARE SO SKEWED...
ADMIRAL!! THAT'S THE CORE! IT'S SHEATHED ITSELF IN LAYERS OF MELLENARES KILOMETERS THICK--BUT IT'S IN THERE! THIS IS NO MERE EXPERIMENT--THE ENEMY IS TRYING TO BYPASS US COMPLETELY!
WE MUST STOP THEM NOW! THEY MUST BE FORCED TO TURN BACK OR BE DESTROYED!